

**PROPOSED PUMICE VALLEY LANDFILL EXPANSION -
ISSUES OF CONCERN RAISED AT MEETING
11/10/04 Lee Vining Community Center**

Note: Make sure to include in the project description the fact that there are two existing quarries near the landfill (gravel pit, etc). Include all surrounding land uses in project description.

Public Services

- Fire outbreak possible because of woody debris in landfill; possibility for combustion elsewhere in landfill?

Geology, Seismicity, and Soils

- Site contains soils susceptible to erosion by wind and water. Vegetation is not proposed as an erosion mitigation technique because the soil is sandy and contains no nutrients. Instead, landfill proposes to use mechanical methods for erosion control by adding a layer of woodchips over eroding soil.
- Small structures on site would not be likely to be damaged by an earthquake.

Biological Resources

- Proposed area of expansion is approximately 330 feet wide by ¼ mile long. Area composed primarily of tall big sage brush. Consultant reports say there is no rare or endangered vegetation in the area.
- Impact on sage grouse populations. Make sure this is thoroughly studied in EIR.
- Benton Crossing landfill can get up to 400 tons of garbage in a day at peak times. If Benton Crossing Landfill closes in 20 years, how will this affect Pumice Valley Landfill?

Visual Resources

- Will the landfill blend with surrounding/existing terrain?
- Area is located adjacent to "Scenic Basin." Will proposed landfill be seen from scenic basin?
- Visual quality analysis should be conducted to see what proposed landfill would look like at full build-out (take photos from various viewpoints and insert simulations of landfill).
- Are there any proposed new developments in the area? If so, will the landfill be visible to them?

Noise

- Heavy equipment in the area every 3 or 4 months. Will noise from the heavy equipment disturb the sage grouse and other wildlife? Will increased noise levels be perceptible to nearby residents?
- Quarries on nearby sites already make lots of noise. Will increased landfill noise even be perceptible?

Air Quality

- Effect of dust from equipment, etc.
- Wood chips on slopes could affect air quality.

Circulation

- Would 120 East be opened to take on extra traffic?
- Current traffic load is approximately 10 vehicles a day. If Benton Crossing Landfill closes, traffic will increase by 4 or 5 times that.

Energy

- Current and proposed energy sources: generator, solar power, heavy equipment fuel.

Water Resources

- How would proposed expansion affect off site systems (rivers, etc.)?
- Groundwater is 280' to 300' below surface and is monitored semi-annually at four monitoring wells.

Other

- Increased county population growth could lead to a greater than predicted impact on the landfill. How can this be accounted for?
- Zoning Issues: would expansion area be zoned 'PF'? Check surrounding land uses to make sure they are compatible.

Alternatives

- No project.
- Determine feasibility of putting landfill at another site.
- Close Pumice Valley Landfill and use Benton Crossing Landfill exclusively.
- Truck all waste out-of-state or out-of-county.